

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 are all the claims pending in the application. Applicants add claim 7 by way of this Amendment.

Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by newly cited Wydler et al. (5,480,198).

Claims 3-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over newly cited JP patent to Yokomori in view of Wydler et al. (5,480,198).

Analysis

Claims 1 and 2:

Claim 1 is amended to clarify that the driving apparatus includes an idle gear driven by a driven gear, an output gear driven by the driven gear and an output gear that is driven by the idle gear. Each of the driving gears has a first rotational shaft, the driven gear has a second rotational shaft which is orthogonal to the first rotational shaft, the idle gear has a third rotational shaft which is parallel to the second rotational shaft and the output gear as a fourth rotational shaft which is parallel to the third rotational shaft and is placed a predetermined distance from the third rotational shaft. This aspect of the invention is fully supported by FIG. 4 and page 12, line 21 – page 13, line 9 of the specification.

Wydler fails to teach or suggest this structure for a plurality of driving gears, a driven gear, idle gear, output gear and their respective rotational shaft configuration.

With the claimed configuration, the novel device can be downsized and thinly shaped. To the contrary, in the device disclosed in Wydler (Figs. 2 and 4), the rotational shaft of spur

gear unit 14 faces the same direction as rotational axis of screw 3, thereby increasing the required area around spur gear unit 14.

In view of the foregoing, Wydler fails to disclose claim 1.

The remaining cited references fail to overcome the deficiencies of Wydler.

Claim 2 is patentable for at least the same reasons as claim 1.

Claims 3-6:

Applicants note that the JP patent to Yokomori has a publication date of February 5, 2004, which is after Applicants' Japanese priority date of September 13, 2002. Moreover, the US equivalent of the cited JP patent, US 7,003,915, has a US filing date of June 27, 2003, which is also after Applicants' Japanese priority date of September 13, 2002.

Therefore, this reference should be removed as prior art because Applicants submit herewith a certified English translation of the priority document JP 2002-268573, in order to perfect the claim for foreign priority under 37 C.F.R. §1.55(a).

With Yokomori is removed as prior art, claims 3-6 are patentable because Wydler does not teach or suggest each and every feature of these claims.

Claim 7:

Finally, Applicants add claim 7 which includes the subject matter of previously submitted claim 3. This claim is patentable since Applicants have perfected the claim of priority to remove Yokomori as prior art, and none of the other references render this claim obvious.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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